



Head Teacher's Newsletter

SUMMER TERM

Issue No 11 | July 2026



Mrs Frost-Briggs' message of the term!



As we reach the end of a very long (and hot!) summer term, I would like to thank our students, staff, and families for their continued commitment to the school. Throughout the year, and especially during the last few weeks, our students have demonstrated resilience and adaptability in working hard during the heatwave and have shown kindness to others, helping one another and making the most of every opportunity.

We have been lucky to benefit from many memorable moments that have enriched the lives of our students this year. Students enjoyed celebrating the many cultures and backgrounds within our community during Inspiration Day, they showed great teamwork on Sports Day, and enjoyed some unforgettable experiences in the recent Barcelona, Geneva and Boppard trips. I feel strongly that it is these enrichment activities that our young people will use to build life-long memories of their time at JF. We've seen students build confidence, develop independence and broaden their horizons and I am subsequently extremely grateful to the team of wonderful staff for providing these experiences for our young people to ensure that every student has the opportunity to grow, thrive, and discover their potential.

We enjoyed sharing the successes of many of our young people in the Celebration Evening this week and a special shout out to Lottie and Jess for their wonderful solo performances! Time to Shine has been very well attended with a lot of our students queuing up to show myself, other staff and Governors their remarkable work and getting a prize.

Finally, a huge thank you to you all for your support this year. It is very much appreciated. I wish you all a WONDERFUL holiday and see you in September!

Duke of Edinburgh!

A huge congratulations to our 26 students who have successfully achieved their Bronze DofE Award this year!



As part of their award, students completed a challenging expedition from Middleton-by-Youlgreave to Alstonefield, where they demonstrated impressive navigation skills, set up camp independently, cooked themselves a substantial evening meal, and successfully completed the expedition section of their award. We couldn't be prouder of how well they represented the school; one of the most organised, prepared, and enthusiastic groups we've ever taken on expedition. In fact, they were so efficient that they completed everything ahead of schedule... leaving the staff without enough time to enjoy our traditional expedition bacon cobs!

Year 8 STEM inspiration

Our Year 8 students recently enjoyed an exciting visit from Lubrizol, where they were given a fascinating insight into the world of science and engineering careers.

A particular highlight was hearing from former John Flamsteed student Dr Brown, who shared his inspiring journey from the classrooms of JFCS to studying at the University of Oxford, before progressing into a senior role within Lubrizol. His story showed students how hard work, curiosity and determination can open the door to incredible opportunities.

Students then stepped into the shoes of research and development scientists by taking part in a hands-on formulation challenge. Working in teams, they designed, tested and refined different formulations to discover which would allow a mass to slide the furthest. There was plenty of excitement, teamwork and scientific thinking as students investigated, evaluated their results and competed to create the best-performing formulation.

A huge thank you to the team at Lubrizol for delivering such an engaging and inspiring day. We hope it has sparked the curiosity of some of our future scientists and engineers!

LAMDA opportunity

We are delighted to announce that LAMDA will continue in September at JFCS – This is an exciting oracy opportunity offered by the Award-Winning* Local Performing Arts Company LEARNING THROUGH DRAMA LTD.

Lessons take place Mondays on a rolling program in the practice room working toward optional Graded examinations in Poetry, Prose, Acting, Reading for Performance, Public Speaking & Shakespeare. Grades VI-VIII are Level 3 Qualifications equivalent to GCSE/A-Level Examinations and LAMDA Tuition can be used toward DofE Requirements. Enrolment is open for 20-minute small group, paired or 1-2-1 lessons looking at performance elements of speaking and communication skills; learning to memorise and recite with expression, clarity, pace and understanding.

Please see Miss Leask-Walters for more information.



LAMDA Leader Mrs Beetham – Governor

The Brilliant Club. This year we have had 12 Year 10 students who have successfully graduated from The Brilliant Club, part of The Scholars Programme, which aims to give school-age children an insight into a potential university education. Our Tutor was Ellie Glover, a PhD student from John Moores University, Liverpool and the topic she delivered was The Extra 1%: Is There More to Elite Sport Than Physical Excellence? All students engaged fully with the course and contributed significantly in classroom-based discussions related to the topic studied. The culmination of the course was our Graduation Ceremony at the University of Leeds on Wednesday 8 July. Ffion, Francesca and Ruby were all awarded a 1st Class grading in their final assignment - a study of 2,000 words related to the topic that was taught.

Well done to all our Brilliant Club students.

Meanwhile...in Music

The music department has been busy this term. Year 7 have been learning about chords in Caribbean music and enjoyed workshops playing the steel drums. Year 8 have been composing music inspired by Programme Music - a style of classical music from the 1800s. Year 9 have been learning about the history of rap and have been writing their own!



Out of lessons, students rehearsed hard and played at the Festival of Education. There were performances from the Steel band, School Band, Choir and String group, as well as some solo performances. Finally, the choir performed at Ripley Music Festival on the 17th July at Crossley Park, along with several other schools in the area.

Thank you to all the student musicians for their dedication and commitment throughout the year, and to our team of visiting music teachers who work so hard to support our students. Also, a special thankyou to Nic Coker, who runs the steel band, and Mrs Kearney who runs the string group.

Well done to Lexi F who won the South East Derbyshire Music Centre award for singing, and Caleb C who won the Director's award for commitment to South East Derbyshire Music Centre. Congratulations!!

Year 6 Transition

Last month we welcomed our new cohort of Year 7s joining us next academic year. The students joined us for three days where they took part in two assemblies, a tour of the school and 12 different lessons, giving them a real taste of what life is like at JF. The Year 6s were truly amazing and embodied everything we ask of a JF student, they certainly look like they are going to be a remarkable year group and we cannot wait to welcome them into the JF family in September.



BSL Club - we've been very topical! It took us a while, but we learned the 48 signs for the teams of the World Cup!

BookCrossing club - Since March, we have released 128 books into the wild! We've had 18 catches and our furthest book has travelled to Bahrain!

We have again had a Y7 Carnegie shadowing group in school this year. After the Easter holiday a group of Y7 students met weekly to read this year's shortlist - they discussed characters, key plot points, structural features and rated the titles. The group also came together to watch the live stream of the winner's ceremony from London. Although the book they chose as their winner, Ghostlines by Katya Balen didn't win, they still enjoyed the celebratory event! Miss Mugridge would like to say a huge well done to this year's group as they have been extremely dedicated in reading this year's texts.



In May, we took 10 year 10 students to Paris for a language and culture trip. Students took part in a treasure hunt around the city, visited the Musée d'Orsay, and the Palais de Versailles, among much more. We had an amazing experience and the children got to test out their French!



News from the JFCS memorial garden

Recently we have added much needed water butts, hedging along the new fence and an amazing 'sunshine' gate designed by our site staff.

We are growing sunflowers, lupins, beans, potatoes, herbs, strawberries, raspberries and carrots! The apple tree is thriving and McKenzie's rose continues to wow us with beautiful blooms!

Barcelona Trip with Food and Nutrition

Our Year 9 and 10 students had an unforgettable four-day trip to Barcelona, immersing themselves in Spanish culture, cuisine and history. Highlights included enjoying a traditional tapas meal while learning about its origins, taking part in a hands-on cooking masterclass with two Spanish chefs where students prepared a range of authentic dishes including gazpacho, tortilla, pan con tomate, empanadillas and pisto manchego bites with goat's cheese. We explored some of Barcelona's most iconic landmarks, including the Sagrada Família, La Rambla, Barceloneta Beach, Mercat de la Boqueria and a relaxing boat trip. Evenings were spent enjoying the beautiful views of Barcelona alongside salsa lessons, karaoke and live music at our accommodation. With over 70,000 steps walked across the four days, students embraced every opportunity to explore, learn and create memories that will last a lifetime.



Geneva CERN Trip

This year, 17 students had the incredible opportunity to visit Geneva, enjoying a trip packed with science, culture and unforgettable experiences.

Although it was an early start with a coach journey to Heathrow Airport, the excitement was clear to see. The students were full of energy and enthusiasm as they set off on their adventure to the world-famous CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider and some of the most important scientific research taking place anywhere in the world.

During the visit, students explored CERN's cutting-edge facilities, discovering how scientists from across the globe work together to unlock the mysteries of the universe. It was an inspiring experience that brought classroom science to life.

The trip also gave students the chance to experience the beauty and culture of Geneva. Highlights included a relaxing boat trip across the stunning Lake Geneva, visits to the History of Science Museum, the beautiful Botanical Gardens, and a tour of the impressive United Nations headquarters. And, of course, no trip abroad would be complete without a little time to explore the local shops and pick up a few souvenirs!

The students were a real credit to the school throughout the visit, demonstrating excellent behaviour, curiosity and maturity wherever they went. It was a fantastic few days filled with learning, laughter and memories that will last a lifetime.

Young Engineers and Scientists of Derbyshire – Champions!

We are incredibly proud of our students who represented the school at the Young Engineers and Scientists of Derbyshire annual competition, held at the University of Derby.

This was our second year taking part in the competition, and after achieving an impressive second place last year, we were thrilled to go one step further and be crowned overall champions this year!

The competition challenged teams to design, build and test a machine capable of launching a ball the greatest accuracy, in the spirit of the 2026 World Cup. Students had to apply their knowledge of science, engineering and mathematics while demonstrating creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills throughout the day.

We entered three teams of three students, all of whom represented the school with enthusiasm, resilience and outstanding teamwork. A special congratulations goes to Florence O, Annie D and Elle A, whose exceptional design and engineering skills earned them first place in the competition.

This fantastic achievement is a testament to the hard work, innovation and determination of all the students involved. We look forward to returning next year to defend our title!

Meanwhile...elsewhere in History!



It has been a busy and rewarding summer term for the History Department! Our Year 9 pupils had the privilege of taking part in a Virtual Reality experience delivered by the National Holocaust Centre, allowing them to hear the powerful testimonies of Holocaust survivors. Many also visited the Holocaust Centre in Laxton, where they listened to the moving story of a survivor from Hungary, helping to bring their learning to life. This week also saw our first ever Humanities trip to Lincoln with half of Year 7. Pupils explored the rich history of Lincoln Castle, deepened their understanding of the Christian faith at Lincoln Cathedral, and investigated how the city's shops have changed over time, linking with their Geography studies.

History Club has continued to buzz away this term, with pupils enthusiastically taking part in a range of historical activities and presenting on various topics. At this year's Festival of Education, the History Department marked the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence with an American-themed extravaganza! Pupils relived the Boston Tea Party by throwing "tea bags" (bean bags!) into the "sea", while also putting their historical knowledge to the test in our Traitors challenge. Their task was to spot historical figures who had "betrayed" their own time period (traitors) by embracing modern technology too soon - think Julius Caesar taking a selfie or Henry VIII sending a text message!

Looking ahead, we're excited to be taking a group of students to London next term to visit the Bayeux Tapestry exhibition. Don't forget to get your competition entries in.

It has been fantastic to see our pupils engaging so enthusiastically with history both inside and outside the classroom. We wish everyone a wonderful summer break and look forward to another exciting year of historical adventures in September!

YEAR 8 GERMAN TRIP

We had a fantastic five-day trip to Boppard am Rhein in western Germany, taking in spectacular scenery, exciting activities and cultural experiences. From castles and cable cars to Phantasialand and countless ice creams, it was an unforgettable adventure!



YEAR 10 UNIVERSITY TRIP

Our Year 10 students enjoyed a fantastic Inspiration Day in July, visiting four different university campuses. They explored campus life, met student ambassadors and gained valuable insight into higher education, representing the school brilliantly throughout!



AXIOM MATHS

This year our Axiom students have shown incredible enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork as they challenged themselves with mathematical problems beyond the classroom curriculum!

To celebrate everything they have achieved our students recently hosted an Axiom Celebration Event, inviting staff to take on some of the puzzles and activities they have been exploring throughout the year. It was fantastic to see our students confidently leading the event, explaining their thinking and encouraging teachers to put their own problem-solving skills to the test!

We are incredibly proud of everything our Axiom students have accomplished this year. Their curiosity, determination and willingness to take on new challenges have been outstanding and we can't wait to see what they achieve next year!

COMPETITION TIME!

